

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-24 are pending in this application, claim 15 having been cancelled and claims 21-24 being newly added by the above amendment. Of these claims, claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Yegnashankaran et al. In view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks, this rejection is traversed, and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 19 and 20 have been allowed and claims 12-18 have been objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter.

By the above amendment, independent claim 11 has been amended with the language previously found in dependent claim 15, rendering the §102(b) rejection moot. It is therefore respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn. In view of the Examiner's indication that dependent claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is now believed that independent claim 11 and its dependents are allowable over the prior art of record.

New claim 21 is dependent claim 12 written in independent form, new claim 22 is dependent claim 13 written in independent form, new claim 23 is dependent claim 14 written in independent form and new claim 24 is dependent 18 written in independent form. In view of the Examiner's indication that dependent claims 12-14 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is believed that new claims 21-24 are

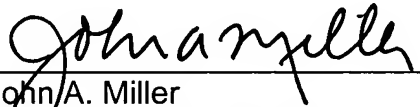
allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed. If the Examiner believes that personal contact with Applicant's representative would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
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